164 Orontes River and in the irrigated districts
163 of the Euphrates river basin, especially in
369 the Al Jazira region. In a survey of representative population groups in Syria and Lebanon, reported in 1934,[88] hookworm ova were found in fecal specimens from 25 to 36 per cent of the farmers examined in the vicinity of Homs and Hama. Surveys in the Euphrates area suggest comparable infection rates. In the examination of 306 presumably healthy Arabs, from 9 to 60 years of age, who were engaged on excavations near Salihiye on the river about 60 miles south of Deir ez Zor in 1933,[38] slightly over 38 per cent were found to harbor hook-
164 worms. The prevalence of infection in the
369 agricultural communities along the Eu-
514 phrates and its tributaries probably aver-
515 ages from 25 to 35 per cent. Promiscuous defecation is widely practiced, and the children, running barefoot around the dwellings and in the fields, are particularly exposed to infection. No data are available regarding the degree of infection, but most observers believe that it is usually moderate. Similar studies undertaken in the areas around Damascus and Aleppo, in an Alawite village on the northern plateau and among Bedouin tribesmen south of the Euphrates yielded no evidence of infection.

164 Schistosomiasis. Schistosomiasis is endemic in two localized areas near the Turkish border—the Tell Abiad district on the upper reaches of the Belikh River and

Distribution of Schistosomiasis in Syria

p. 150(A)